

Unredeemed Expectations
A Framework for the Book of Deuteronomy
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Moshe's Reaction according to the Plain Text:

1. Num. 20:12-14: But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust Me enough to affirm My sanctity in the sight of the Israelite people, therefore you shall not lead this congregation into the land that I have given them." ...From Kadesh, Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom...
2. Num. 27: 12-16: The Lord said to Moses, "Ascend these heights of Abarim and view the land that I have given to the Israelite people. When you have seen it, you too shall be gathered to your kin, just as your brother Aaron was. For, in the wilderness of Zin, when the community was contentious, you disobeyed My command to uphold My sanctity in their sight by means of the water." Those are the Waters of Meribath-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin. Moses spoke to the Lord, saying "Let the Lord, Source of the breath of all flesh, appoint someone over the community who shall go out before them and come in before them, and who shall take them out and bring them in, so that the Lord's community may not be like sheep that have no Shepard." And the Lord answered Moses, "Single out Joshua son of Nun..."
3. Deut. 3:23: I pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying "O Lord God, You who let Your servant see the first works of Your greatness and Your mighty hand, You whose powerful deeds no god in heaven or on earth can equal! Let me, I pray, cross over and see the good land on the other side of the Jordan, that good hill country, and the Lebanon." But the Lord was wrathful with me on your account and would not listen to me. The Lord said to me, "Enough! Never speak to Me of this matter again! Go up to the summit of Pisgah and gaze about, to the west, the north, the south, and the east. Look at it well, for you shall not go across yonder Jordan. Give Joshua his instructions, and imbue him with strength and courage, for he shall go across at the head of his people and he shall allot to them the land that you may only see."
4. Deut. 31: 1-3: Moses went and spoke these things to al Israel. He said to them: I am now one hundred and twenty years old, I can no longer be active. Moreover, the Lord has said to me, "You shall not go across yonder Jordan." The Lord your God Himself will cross over at your head, and He will wipe out those nations from you path and you shall dispossess them..."

To complete this list see: Num. 20:25, 31:2; Deut. 1:37, 4:21, 31:14-16, 32: 48, 33:1, 34:1.

II. Midrash Tannaim 3—see Hebrew source sheet

III. Yalkut Shimoni, Veyelekh 940

1 Rabbi Yohanan said: "Ten deaths are written about Moses and they are as follows: 'Behold your time approaches to die,' 'And you will die on the mountain,' 'Behold I am

going to die,' 'Behold I know that after I die,' 'Before his death.' 'He was 120 years old at this death,' 'and Moses died there,' 'And it came to pass after the death of Moses,' 'Moses my servant has died.' This teaches that it was decreed ten times that he should not enter the land of Israel, but still the harsh decree had not been sealed until God revealed Himself and said "It is a decree before me that you shall not pass" as it is stated, "Behold, you will not cross this Jordan."

- 2 This matter was mild in the eyes of Moses, because he thought [to himself] "Israel sinned several large sins several times and I sought mercy on their behalf and immediately He accepted from me, as it said 'Leave me alone and I will destroy them,' and what is written following, 'And God said, I have forgiven according to your word.' With respect to myself, who did not sin from my youth, should it not be so much the more so that I should pray on my own behalf and He will accept from me. " When The Holy One Blessed be He saw that the matter was mild in Moses' eyes and that he did not stand in prayer immediately He became angry at him and swore on His Great name that he would not enter, as it says "Therefore you will not bring them" and the language of "therefore" always indicates an oath as it says, "Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli"
- 3 "When Moses realized that the decree had been sealed against him, he drew a small circle around himself, sat in it, and said, "Master of the universe, I will not budge from here until you void that decree." At the same time, he donned sackcloth—indeed, wrapped himself in it—strewed ashes upon himself, and persisted in prayer and supplications before the Holy One, until heaven and earth—indeed, all things made during creation, were shaken.
- 4 They said, "Perhaps the desire of the Holy One Blessed be He to destroy the world has arrived?!" A divine voice came forth and said: As yet, the desire of the Holy One Blessed be He to destroy the world has not arrived. But the words "in whose hand is the soul of every living thing" [are in force and apply even to Moses].
- 5 What did the Holy One do then? He had it proclaimed at every gate of every firmament and every heavenly court that Moses' prayer be not accepted nor brought up to His presence, because the decree concerning him had been sealed.
- 6 And from whence [do we know] that Moses prayed 515 times as it says 've'ethanan' and the numerical value of ve'ethanan is 515. At that time, Moses said before the Holy One Blessed be He: "Master of the Universe, known and revealed to You is the trouble and pain I suffered on account of Israel, until they came to believe in Your Name. How much pain I suffered because of them, until I inculcated among them the Torah and its precepts! I said, As I witnessed their woe, so will I be allowed to witness their weal. Yet now that Israel's weal has come, You tell me "You shall not go over this Jordan" [Deut. 3:27]. Thus Your Torah, which asserts, "In the same day thou shalt give him his hire." [Deut. 24:15], You manifestly turn into fraud. Is such the reward for forty years of labor that I labored until Israel became a holy people loyal to their faith?" The Holy One replied, "Nevertheless, such is the decree that has gone forth from My Presence!"